# COMMANDERS DIGEST

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## Adm. Sharp Predicts Defeat For Enemy in RVN Offensive

Adm. Ulysses S. G. Sharp, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific, said at an April 17 Pentagon news conference that the enemy in South Vietnam faces certain defeat should he try a major offensive in the northern provinces.

The Admiral said there are some indications of an enemy push in the north, but he did not rule out the enemy's avoiding major contacts and intensifying guerrilla warfare.

"The enemy strategy hinges on prolonging the war and outlasting our determination," Adm. Sharp said.

He pointed out several factors are working in our favor in the Vietnam conflict: 1. South Vietnam is accessible to our sea and airpowers; 2. South Vietnamese are determined to remain free; 3. Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines have joined in the military or civic action effort, with 30 other nations contributing in economic, health or welfare programs.

Adm. Sharp said the Vietnam conflict, in broad terms, is a direct confrontation with aggressive communism from Korea to Thailand.

He elaborated that most of our Western Pacific allies are counting heavily on the United States to help off-set the communist threat.

## New Mini-Gun Modules Receive High Praise from U.S. Forces in RVN

New Gatling-type 7.62mm mini-gun modules, developed specifically for AC-47 Dragon-ships, have won praise in South Vietnam.

This report came from Seventh Air Force in Vietnam, noting that the squadron of Dragon-ships assigned fired 20 million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition in the first year of operation.

The new modules have an electrically-powered reloading system and a greater ammunition capacity than the original guns they are replacing, Air Force said. The older, hand-loaded mini-guns were designed for mounting underneath an aircraft wing or fuselage.

Three of the new six-barrelled mini-guns, firing through gunports in the side of modified C-47s, have a combined rate of fire of 18,000 rounds per minute.

*COMMAND PERFORMANCE — Commanders of five service organizations greet Air Force Chief of Staff John P. McConnell during a visit to the Naval Air Station in New Orleans. In the receiving line (left to right) are: Capt. Sidney N. Baney, USN, Station Commander; Col. Edward Murphy, Air National Guard Commander; Lt. Col. Hilliard F. Kelly, Air Force Reserve Commander; Cdr. Martin Flesh, Coast Guard Commander, and Lt. Col. Ralph Thuesen, Marine Air Reserve Commanding Officer. Gen. McConnell toured the air station, the first joint training facility devoted exclusively to training reservists.*

## Army Approves Development Of Extended Range Lance Missile

Army has given the go-ahead for development of a modified Lance missile to replace the Honest John missile, which has a range capability of 25 miles.

This decision followed a successful test demonstration of an Extended Range Lance (XRL) concept.

Lance can carry a conventional or nuclear warhead and is hailed as the answer to Army's need for a battlefield weapon that is highly mobile, rugged, accurate, reliable and simple to operate. Accuracy is derived from a new simplified inertial guidance and control system developed by the Army.

The XRL can be launched from the present Lance ground support equipment. An official said the development decision extends application of the Lance concept, which offers reliability and low cost of a free rocket, but provides range and accuracy of a guided missile.

# Washington Memos

STRATCOM-ALASKA, a new subordinate command designed to improve management of Army's communications system, has been established at Ft. Richardson. Effective April 1, action sets up new system in which STRATCOM will assume command of all signal units and facilities providing communications from theatre Army level down to Yukon Command. Elements involved in consolidation and transfer are 33rd Signal Battalion, 60th Signal Detachment and Signal elements at Ft. Richardson, Ft. Wainwright and Ft. Greely.

MINISTERS OF the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization met April 18 in Washington, D.C., for three-day meeting. Seven-nation Manila Conference met there April 20-21 and the three countries of ANZUS—Australia, New Zealand and the United States—held a council meeting April 21-22.

SECRETARY OF NAVY has approved award of Navy Unit Commendation to Marine Aircraft Group 12. Unit was cited for "exceptionally meritorious service from May 1965 to April 1966 while serving in Vietnam.

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN to promote sale of U.S. Savings Bonds will begin in May. Theme of 1967 bond drive, set earlier in year by President Johnson, is "Share in Freedom." New "Freedom Share" bonds will earn 4.47 percent interest at four and a half year maturity, and must be purchased on a payroll or bank deduction plan not to exceed current "E" series bond deduction purchases.

DEFENSE SECRETARY HAS named Army Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster to succeed VAdm. Fitzhugh Lee, Aug. 1, as National War College Commandant. Gen. Goodpaster is presently Director, Special Studies, Army CofS Office. Adm. Lee will retire.

AIR FORCE PERMANENT warrant officer, regular and reserve, FY68 board convenes April 24 at USAF Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex. Board will consider about 157 WOs of the regular Air Force and about 256 Reserve. "Best qualified" method of selection will be used.

MAJOR GENERAL William B. Latta, CG, Army Electronics Command, will be keynote speaker at 21st annual Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Convention in Washington, June 6-8. Navy will present a panel on "Global Naval Communications and Vietnam—Challenge and Response." Panel moderator will be Capt. Garrison Brown, Director, Communications Plans and Policy Division, Office of Naval Communications. Panel keynote speaker will be RAdm. Robert H. Weeks, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Communications.

AIR FORCE IS eliminating E-3 promotion boards. Also, in many cases promotions to E-4 and E-5 are being made earlier in an individual's career than in the past.

NEW AERIAL Reconnaissance Camera, KS-87A, has been developed by Naval Air Systems Command. Incorporating most advanced features in camera technology, KS-87A was designed to keep pace with modern high-performance reconnaissance aircraft by providing system that delivers sharp photographs, day or night, at virtually any altitude.

SUPERINTENDENT OF NAVAL Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., RAdm. E. J. O'Donnell, will retire from Navy in August to accept position of president of New York Maritime College. Successor has not been designated at this time.

TWO-WEEK PILOT course in guidance and control for aerospace vehicles is currently underway at Air University's Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Course is designed to update Air Force scientists and engineers whose duties include guidance and control theory and whose most recent degree was earned five to 10 years ago.

EIGHTH ANNUAL ARMED Forces Chess Championship Tournament will be held, Oct. 21-28, in the American Legion's Hall of Flags, Washington, D.C. Five Army, five Air Force and six sea services representatives will be invited to this year's tournament. In addition to the regular tournament, each team will be matched against one or more teams of foreign armed forces chess players stationed in the Washington area.

GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER escort USS Talbot is scheduled to be commissioned at Boston Naval Shipyard on April 22. Ship is newest of series and will be first of her class to be assigned to Atlantic Fleet. VAdm. Charles E. Weakley, Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, will be principal speaker at commissioning ceremony.

COLONELS RAFAEL G. Dufficy Jr., and John E. Whiting of Army's XV Corps have been nominated by President Johnson for promotion to brigadier general. They were among 46 Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Naval Reserve officers nominated for promotion to new general and flag ranks. Col. Dufficy commands 6253rd Army Hospital and Col. Whiting is commander, 351st Civil Affairs Area, both located in San Francisco.

MARINE FIRST SERGEANT Clovis C. Coffman Jr., currently serving with First Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam, has been selected by Navy League to receive Admiral Claude V. Ricketts Award for Inspirational Leadership. For first time, Admiral Ricketts Award is to be presented to both Navy and Marine winner. Navy award will go HM1 Richard L. Lewis, currently serving with Force Troops, Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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# Air Force Gives Details On New Promotion System

Air Force's aim to fill enlisted grade vacancies as they occur will become a reality July 1 through inauguration of a monthly promotion system.

The new system, officials emphasize, does not mean an increase in stripe allocation. However, many personnel selected for upgrading will be promoted from one to 11 months earlier than under the present system.

Board scores will continue to determine selection under the "whole man" concept. However, a new innovation in enlisted promotion lists will be the "seniority system." Time-in-grade constitutes the basis for seniority.

Selections for the July-December cycle are expected to be announced about June 15. E-5 through E-7 selections will be compiled by major commands. For this period, Air Force headquarters will issue E-8 and E-9 selections.

A master selection list of all grades will be released by Headquarters, USAF, beginning Jan. 1, 1968. It will contain numbers to be selected by promotion cycle.

Air Force plans to convene an E-8 and E-9 selection board in October-November. Promotion boards for E-5 through E-7 are scheduled to meet 60-75 days prior to the beginning of each new cycle.

The master list of selections will be in sufficient number to cover projected authorized ceilings. Selection boards will also make supplementary recommendations for use if persons on the master list decline promotion or are dropped for cause.

"This system," officials point out, "will improve command imbalances and eliminate a person's chance of not being promoted because of transfer." In all cases, allocations on a master list will be met.

Eligibility for promotion remains unchanged.

# Army Sets Mid-Summer Deadline For Overhaul of Morning Report

The Army is trying to simplify the daily task of some thousands of Morning Report (MR) clerks by completely overhauling the report, DA Form 1, by mid-summer.

Major innovation in TAGO's Army Data Support Command's redesign is elimination of personnel information traditionally known as supplemental data.

This personnel data will flow from the Personnel Office, custodian of individual 201 Files, directly to the Data Processing Activity.

The official announcement said this takes a tremendous administrative work load off the "frequently inexperienced, rapidly rotated, low graded" unit clerk.

*SEABEE COMMANDER—RAdm. W. M. Heaman, CEC, USN (right), Commander, Construction Battalions Pacific, and Cdr. D. N. Shockey, CEC, USN (center), Commanding Officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Nine, watch a Marine forward observer spotting for airstrike missions during action near Da Nang. Adm. Heaman was visiting Seabee units in Vietnam.*

# Report Indicates Compliance With DOD Credit Guidelines

The first report of a survey made at selected military installations, and reflecting only a few months experience, shows local business firms are reported generally to have accepted DOD guidelines on disclosing the full cost of consumer credit to servicemen.

This point was made by Brig. Gen. William W. Berg before a Senate Banking and Currency subcommittee on April 17. "It would be presumptuous to declare that the Department of Defense has all the answers to this complicated, sometimes frustrating problem."

Gen. Berg, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, said DOD officials believe the approach of DOD Directive 1344.7 is sound and promotes fair and honest treatment of servicemen.

Gen. Berg said that at installations where the commander had met with business firms, there was a general acceptance and willingness to give the DOD program a fair trial.

However, other bases reported "reluctant acceptance" because of a fear of the possible increased paperwork and two or three installations reported local firms had tended to ignore the directive, he elaborated.

Gen. Berg underscored DOD cannot and should not supervise the private commercial transactions of military personnel. But he emphasized that the military services have long been concerned with the associations of servicemen in the business community surrounding military installations and elsewhere.

## Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle Named to Receive National Defense Award

Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle has been named recipient of the Air Force Academy's Thomas D. White National Defense Award for 1967.

Presentation is scheduled for mid-May at a formal review and parade by the 3,000-man Air Force Academy cadet wing.

The award is presented annually by the Academy to "an American judged to have made outstanding contributions to the national defense and security."

Gen. Doolittle is best known as leader of the carrier-launched 16-bomber attack on Tokyo, April 18, 1942.

During his career, Gen. Doolittle held many top-level positions with government and industry. He is currently a director of several national corporations and vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Aerospace Corp.

*FOUR-STAR PREVIEW—Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, Army Vice Chief of Staff, enters 1st Logistical Command Headquarters with Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eifler, 1st Log Commanding General, during an extended tour of facilities in Vietnam. Gen. Abrams, who has been selected by President Johnson to become Deputy Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, met with Gen. Eifler to discuss major logistical areas and future Army requirements in Vietnam.*

## USMC Announces General Officer Command Changes

General officer command changes in Southeast Asia during May and June have been announced by Marine Corps Headquarters.

Assuming command of the following units in Southeast Asia are:

- CG of the 1st Marine Div. in June, Brig. Gen. Donn J. Robertson, major general selectee, currently serving at Marine Corps Headquarters.
- Asst. CG of the 3rd Marine Div. in May, Brig. Gen. Louis Metzger, presently CG, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.
- CG of the 9th Brigade in May, Col. Jacob Glick, a brigadier general selectee, currently with the Atlantic Command.

Leaving Southeast Asia commands for other posts are:

- 1st Marine Div. CG, Maj. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., assignment to be announced at a later date.
- Asst. CG of the 3rd Marine Div., Brig. Gen. Michael P. Ryan to Director of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Va., in June.

## Army Medics Develop Lifelike Artificial Hand

A lifelike artificial hand that performs with near human precision has been developed by the U.S. Army Medical Biochemical Research Laboratory, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Theory of the artificial hand is likened to that of human response, where a signal is transmitted to the brain and then relayed back to the hand. An electronic brain mounted in the hand is supplied power by rechargeable batteries and a 12-volt electric motor.

Laboratory personnel are manufacturing six additional hands for amputee testing at selected U.S. clinics.

The hands are for very seriously handicapped persons, who lack sufficient control points and power sources to use conventional mechanical artificial devices.

## Navy Requests Proposals For Design, Construction Of DSSV Rescue Vehicle

The Department of the Navy has called for industrial proposals for the construction of a self-propelled Deep Submergence Search Vehicle prototype capable of maneuvering in depths up to 20,000 feet.

The DSSV is to be the first of a sophisticated and highly maneuverable class of submergibles capable of conducting search and rescue operations on the ocean floor.

Seven companies have been requested to submit to the Navy design proposals within 60 days.

Navy plans to award two design contracts to create competition to get the best possible deep submergence search vehicle. Navy is seeking a vehicle capable of carrying four men to the ocean floor for up to 30 hours, with an 80-hour life support system.

## RVN Active Tour Allowed For Army Reserve Officers

An exception to Army policy now allows reserve component warrant officers and officers to volunteer for a normal tour in Vietnam with the active duty lasting at least 14 months.

This 14 months allows for a normal one-year Vietnam tour and includes leave, administrative processing and travel time.

Applications will be considered individually at Headquarters, Department of the Army, on an exception to policy basis.

Those accepted may later apply for an extension of their initial tour. Consideration will be given to active duty performance and demonstrated potential for further active duty.

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